

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13

ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /076 W

-----060447Z 015051 /15

R 051213Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2966

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2865

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR MAY 4, 1977: LOUD

DRUMROLL FOR CARTER-ASAD MEETING

1. MEDIA CONTINUED TO LEAD WITH LAVISH BUILD-UP FOR CARTER-ASAD MEETING. CAMPAIGN HAS STARTED MUCH EARLIER AND WITH MUCH MORE FANFARE THAN THAT WHICH PRECEDED ASAD'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION. ARTICLES REPORTED THIS VISIT FOLLOWS ON HEELS OF "IMPORTANT, SUCCESSFUL VISIT" PRES. ASAD MADE TO SOVIET UNION. THEY NOTED THAT AFTER CARTER'S MEETING WITH SADAT AND HUSSEIN HE SHOULD BE MUCH BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH OVERALL PROBLEM AND THE ARAB POSITION. ARTICLES ASSERTED THAT U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPABLE OF PRESSURING ISRAEL AND OPINED THAT "U.S. DETERMINED TO EXERT ITS EFFORTS TO HELP IN MOVING TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF ME CRISIS." PRESS PUBLISHED SEVERAL OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS PRES. CARTER MADE CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING QUOTE TAKEN FROM VOA REPORT ON CARTER INTERVIEW BROADCAST BY EUROPEAN TELEVISION ALLEGING HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE MAXIMUM FORCE AND POWER AT

HIS GOVERNMENT'S DISPOSAL TO REACH ME AGREEMENT IF IT
CLEARLY APPARENT TO HIM THAT REACHING JUST AND FAIR SOLUTION
TO PROBLEM IS POSSIBLE.

2. ACCOMPANYING EDITORIALS ON FORTHCOMING MEETING CLAIMED
IT RECEIVING INTENSE WORLD INTEREST BECAUSE OF RESULTS IT
COULD PRODUCE. ASAD ACCORDING TO ONE SUCH EDITORIAL WILL
REPRESENT INTEGRATED ARAB VIEWPOINT AS RESULT OF RECENT
CONTACTS AMONG ARAB CAPITALS. COLUMNIST CLAIMED, "THERE NO
PRETEXT FOR US NOT TO PRESENT ITS CONCEPTIONS AT THE ASAD-
CARTER MEETING." SYRIA SAID TO BE FRANK AND SINCERE IN ITS
DEALING WITH ALL PARTIES AND TO HAVE OPTED FOR JUST AND
LASTING PEACE. SYRIA, ACCORDING TO COLUMNIST, PREPARED TO
COOPERATE FOR PEACE "WITH ALL PARTIES" BUT NOT PREPARED TO
GIVE UP ITS TWO CONDITIONS FOR PEACE.

3. LEBANON. PRESS ARTICLE REPORTED THAT VISITORS WHO HAVE
CALLED ON SARKIS IN LAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE NOTED HIS OPTIMISM
OVER PROGRESS IN RESTORING SECURITY TO LEBANON AND IMPLEMEN-
TATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT BEFORE JUNE. CABINET MINISTER
ALSO STATED AFTER HIS MEETING WITH SARKIS THAT HE
BELIEVED CAIRO AGREEMENT WOULD BE EXECUTED BEFORE
JUNE. IN CASE ANYONE MISSED THE POINT DEPUTY SULEIMAN AL-
ALI CLAIMED IT SARKIS HIMSELF WHO SET NEXT JUNE AS
DEADLINE FOR SETTLEMENT OF "ALL SECURITY AND POLITICAL
PROBLEMS FACING LEBANON." LEBANESE MINISTER OF HEALTH,
WATER, AND ELECTRICAL RESOURCES CLAIMED LARGEST PART OF
CAIRO AGREEMENT ALREADY IMPLEMENTED.

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4. MUHAMMAD MANSOUR WROTE COLUMN IN AL-BAATH
ENTITLED "CLEAR RELAXATION OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION" IN
WHICH HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT IMPROVEMENT IN
LEBANON'S CONDITION AND PREDICTED THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY
AMONG VARIOUS LEBANESE PARTIES (NO MENTION OF PALESTINIANS)
WOULD INTENSIFY IN COMING DAYS. HE SAID THESE PARTIES IN
AGREEMENT ON NEED TO TACKLE SECURITY ISSUE FIRST, THEN TO
QUICKLY ESTABLISH ARMY, AND FINALLY TO RECONSTRUCT COUNTRY.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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